UNITED
NATIONS

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Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

S/1999/581
19 May 1999
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: FRENCH

LETTER DATED 18 MAY 1999 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF GERMANY TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

I have the honour to bring to your attention the statement by the Presidency of the European Union concerning recent developments in Guinea-Bissau, issued on 18 May 1999.

I should be grateful if you would have the text of this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Dieter KASTRUP
Permanent Representative of
Germany to the United Nations

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Annex

[Original: English and French]

Statement concerning recent developments in Guinea-Bissau, issued on 18 May 1999 by the Presidency of the European Union

The European Union condemns the new outbreak of violence in Guinea-Bissau leading to the deposition of President Vieira in violation of the Abuja Agreement as well as the attacks on diplomatic missions.

The European Union recalls that in relations with partner countries under the Lomé Convention high importance is being attached to the respect of human rights, the rule of law and the observation of democratic principles. The Union will therefore carefully monitor developments in Guinea-Bissau and, in consideration of the mechanisms laid down in the revised Fourth Lomé Convention, draw its own conclusions from the current situation.

The European Union appeals to the Military Junta, the Government and the other authorities of Guinea-Bissau to renew their efforts to promote national reconciliation, reconstruction and development. The Union expects that Guinea-Bissau will return to the process of democratization based on the Constitution of the country and, in that context, take the necessary measures leading to the holding of free and fair presidential and legislative elections in November.

The European Union commends the efforts undertaken by the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and the ECOWAS Monitoring Group (ECOMOG) to facilitate the reconciliation and peace process in Guinea-Bissau.

The Central and Eastern European countries associated with the European Union, the associated country Cyprus and the European Free Trade Association (EFTA) countries members of the European Economic Area align themselves with this declaration.